

ARISTOTELES
SCOTT, EDWARD JOHN LONG
BRITISH MUSEUM. DEPARTMENT OF MANUSCRIPTS

**Athenaion politeia = Aristotle on the
constitution of Athens : Facsimile of papyrus
CXXXI in the British Museum**

[London] : British Museum [et al.]
1891

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ΑΡΙΣΤΟΤΕΛΟΥΣ

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΩΝ ΠΟΛΙΤΕΙΑ

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ΑΘΗΝΑΙΩΝ ΠΟΛΙΤΕΙΑ

ARISTOTLE

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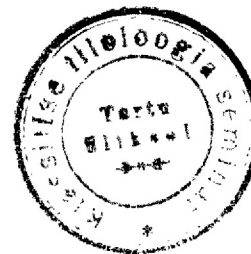
CONSTITUTION OF ATHENS

FACSIMILE OF PAPYRUS CXXXI

IN THE

BRITISH MUSEUM

870.



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SOLD AT THE MUSEUM

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RAAMATUKOGU

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PREFACE.

THE present volume contains the plates in autotype facsimile of the whole of the unique MS. of Aristotle's *Ἀθηναίων Πολιτεία* preserved in Papyrus CXXXI in the British Museum, the text of which has recently been published. The Aristotle is written on the *verso* of the papyrus; the *recto* contains the accounts of a farm-bailiff on an Egyptian estate, dated in the tenth and eleventh years of the Emperor Vespasian (78-79 A.D.). A specimen of these accounts is given in Plate XXII of the present volume; and a complete facsimile, together with a transcript of the text, will appear in the forthcoming *Catalogue of Greek Papyri in the British Museum*.

The text of the Aristotle is written on four separate rolls. The first measures 7 feet 2½ inches, and includes columns 1-11 (Plates I-VIII); the second measures 5 feet 5½ inches, and includes columns 12-24 (Plates IX-XV); the third measures 3 feet, and includes columns 25-30 (Plates XVI-XVIII); the fourth is now extremely mutilated, but apparently measured, when complete, about 3 feet, and includes the remains of columns 31-37 (Plates XIX-XXI). The height of the papyrus is about 11 inches, except in the case of the last roll, where it measures about 10 inches. As regards the last three plates it should be added that, since the photographs were taken, it has been found possible to arrange the fragments more accurately in order, owing to the fact that the writing on the other side of the papyrus is in better preservation; and one fragment (that in the top left-hand corner of Plate XIX) has since found a place in another part of the papyrus.

It will be seen that the MS. is written in four hands. The first, which extends over columns 1-12, is a small semi-cursive hand, employing a large number of contractions of common words and syllables, of which a list is given below. The second hand, which takes up the work at column 13 and continues to the middle of column 20, is uncial of fair size, plain but not ornamental, employing no contractions, and making a number of blunders in matters of spelling. The third is a straggling and often ill-formed semi-cursive hand, of larger size than the first. This hand extends from the middle of column 20 to the end of column 24, and in it are also written the mutilated fragments of columns 31-37. Columns 25-30 are written in the fourth hand, which closely resembles the first, and employs most of the same contractions, but is generally finer and more upright and possesses some distinctive forms of letters. Some corrections of blunders made by the writers of the second and third hands are written in the first (or possibly the fourth) hand. It should be added that the sequence of the text is broken at the middle of the tenth column by a column and a half of writing in the reverse direction, containing a sort of argument to the speech of Demosthenes against Meidias, which had evidently been inscribed on the papyrus before the Aristotle, but was struck out when the sheet was required for the latter. The hand is not the same as any of those described above, but resembles the first and fourth hands in general character and is apparently of about the same date (see Plate VII). That date may be fixed with considerable probability at the end of the first century of our era or the beginning of the second; since it is not at all likely that the farm-bailiff's accounts (which, being on the *recto* of the papyrus, are earlier than the Aristotle) would have been preserved on their own merits for many years after the date to which they refer.

The following is a table of the abbreviations which occur in the MS. :—

3 = αι.	μ' = μεν.
α' = ἀνά.	μ' = μετά.
ζ = αὐτήν (col. 9, l. 8).	ο' = ουν.
γ' = γάρ.	π' = παρά.
δ' = δε.	π' = περί or περ.
δ' = διά.	σ' = σύν.
\ = εἶναι.	τ' = την.
/ = ἐστί.	τ' = της.
// = εἰσί.	τ' = των.
θ' = θαι.	υ' = ὑπέρ.
κ' = και.	υ' = ὑπό.
κ' = κατά.	* = χρόνος.

Where the expanded word has not been accented in the above list, it is to be understood that the abbreviation is used for the syllable in question when it occurs as part of a word, as well as when it stands by itself, or (in the case of prepositions) in composition: e. g. *αναγκ'ον*, *γεγενημός*.

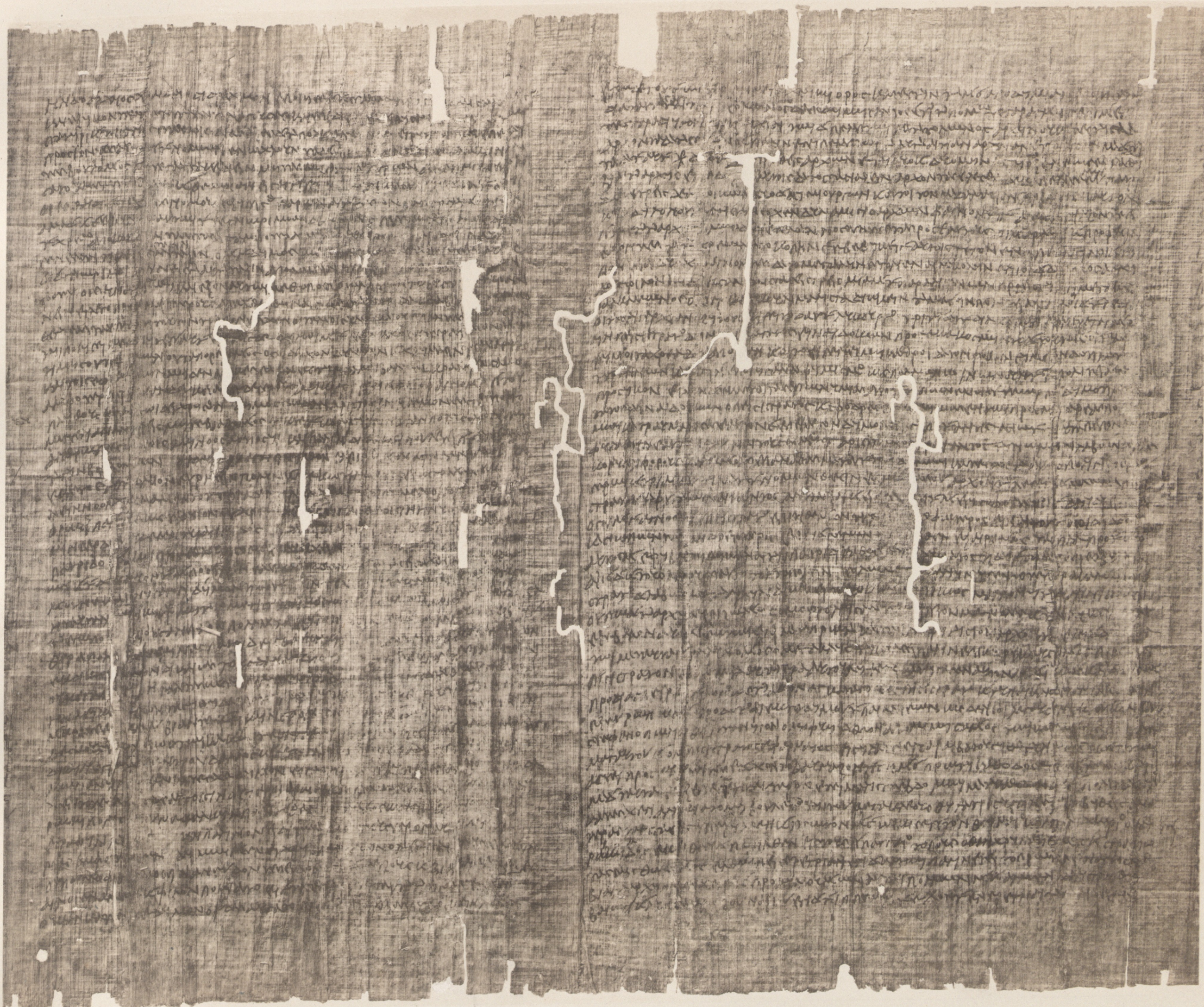
In addition to these there are occasional abbreviations of the terminations of words: e. g. *στρατηγ^ο* for *στρατηγός*, *μα^χ* for *μάχην*, *γενεσ^θ* for *γενέσθαι*. These are, however, rarely used, and present no difficulty.

It may be mentioned that in three cases accents are found in the MS., and in two cases breathings: *εκαμартυρών* (col. 3, l. 9) and *νομοφυλακεῖν* (col. 3, l. 26) have circumflex accents, *ἀ* (col. 12, l. 3) has a rough breathing of an angular shape, and *ἡγώνται* (col. 13, l. 11) has both rough breathing and circumflex accent. The first three cases occur in the first of the four hands in which the MS. is written; the last is an addition to the second hand, presumably by the person who has corrected that hand throughout, viz. the writer of the first hand.

EDWARD SCOTT,
Keeper of MSS.

BRITISH MUSEUM,
4 February, 1891.

Fragment of an ancient papyrus scroll, showing two columns of text in a cursive script. The text is heavily damaged, with significant portions missing, particularly in the center where the binding was. The script is dense and appears to be a form of Greek or Latin used in antiquity. The papyrus is aged and discolored, with visible fibers and some staining.



1. *Handwritten text in a cursive script, likely a historical document or manuscript. The text is written in a dark ink on aged, slightly discolored paper. The script is dense and fills most of the page, with some lines being more prominent than others. The overall appearance is that of a historical record or a personal letter.*

1. *Handwritten text in a cursive script, likely a historical document or manuscript. The text is written in a dark ink on aged, slightly discolored paper. The script is dense and fills most of the page, with some lines showing signs of fading or wear. The text appears to be in a historical language, possibly Latin or a related European language, given the context of the document's origin (Germany, 15th century).*

1. *Handwritten text in Church Slavonic script, likely a liturgical or legal document. The text is dense and covers the majority of the page.*
 2. *Small handwritten notes or corrections in the left margin.*
 3. *Small handwritten notes or corrections in the right margin.*
 4. *Small handwritten notes or corrections at the bottom of the page.*

10

The Voynich manuscript is a collection of handwritten text in an unknown script, known as Voynich. The text is written on aged, yellowed parchment. The script consists of various symbols, including circles, lines, and dots, arranged in a way that suggests a structured language. The page is numbered '10' in the top right corner. The text is written in a single column, with some lines starting with a small, stylized symbol that might be a capital letter. The parchment shows signs of wear, including creases and discoloration.

[The page contains dense, handwritten text in a cursive script, likely from a historical manuscript. The ink is dark and the paper shows signs of age and wear.]

This image shows a fragment of an ancient Greek papyrus scroll. The fragment is rectangular with irregular, torn edges, particularly on the left and bottom. It is light brown in color, showing the natural texture and some staining of the papyrus. The text is written in a cursive Greek hand, with dark ink. The script is dense and fills most of the surface area. There are several vertical lines of text, suggesting a single column of writing. The fragment appears to be a part of a larger document, as evidenced by the torn edges and the way the text is cut off on the left and bottom.

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[illegible]

[illegible]

[The page contains two columns of handwritten Greek text in a cursive script, likely from a medieval manuscript. The ink is dark brown or black, and the parchment shows signs of age and wear. The text is densely packed and fills most of the page area.]

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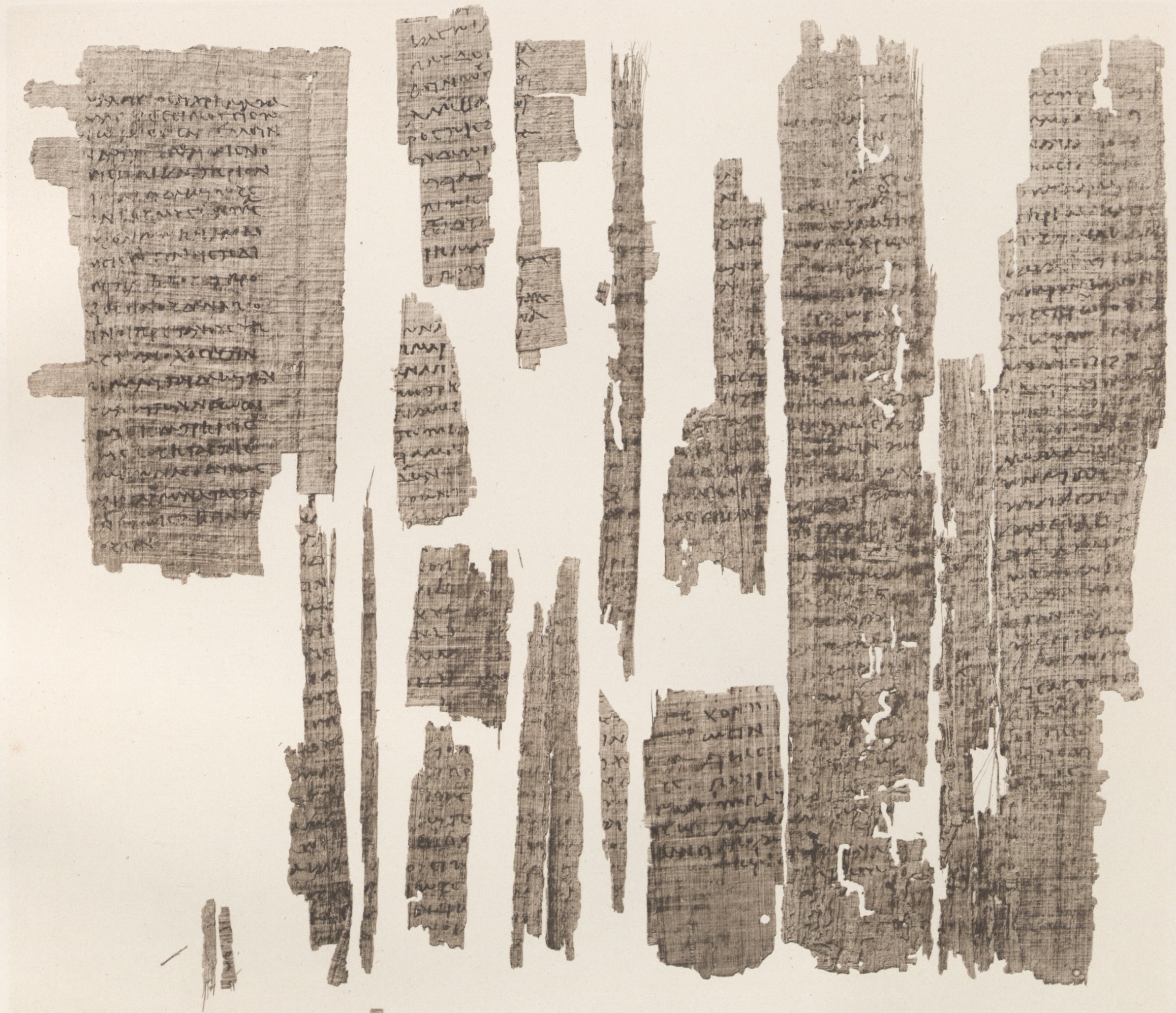
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Fragment of an ancient Greek papyrus scroll, showing two columns of text (Col. 27 and Col. 28). The text is written in a cursive script, likely from the Hellenistic or Roman period. The papyrus is heavily damaged, with significant portions missing, particularly along the right edge and bottom. The text is arranged in two columns, with the left column (Col. 27) and the right column (Col. 28) separated by a vertical crease. The script is dense and difficult to decipher, but appears to be a form of Koine Greek. The fragment is mounted on a light-colored background, and the edges of the papyrus are visible, showing its characteristic texture and some staining.

[The page contains dense handwritten Greek text in a cursive script, likely from a medieval manuscript. The ink is dark brown or black, and the parchment shows signs of age and wear. The text is arranged in approximately 20 horizontal lines across the page.]

[The page contains dense Greek text from a manuscript, which is heavily damaged and partially obscured by large, irregular stains at the bottom.]

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Ο ΤΟΛΟΓΗΝΑΚΑΤΟΛΕΥΤΟΓΡΑΦΗΤΗΣ
 ΔΙΩΝΥΣΙΟΥ ΜΑΧΑΡΙΤΟΥ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ ΠΑΧΕΛΗ
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Handwritten text: *Handwritten text, possibly a signature or name, written in a cursive script.*

[illegible]

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